

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable audio playback device, comprising:

A headset assembly having a first earpiece and a second
5 earpiece interconnected by a headband, wherein the headset assembly is
configured to be worn on the head of a user such that the earpieces are
positioned over respective ears of the user;

at least one audio speaker positioned in at least one of the first
earpiece and the second earpiece;

10 a storage device in the headset assembly for storing audio data;
memory accessing circuitry in the headset assembly for
accessing the audio data in the storage device;

a controller in the headset assembly for sending the audio
signals based on the audio data to the at least one speaker; and

15 a power supply in the headset assembly for powering the audio
playback device.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the storage device is a removable
storage device.

20 3. The device of claim 2, wherein the storage device is a solid state
digital storage media having digitally recorded audio information thereon.

25 4. The device of claim 2, wherein the storage device is an optical
storage device.

5. The device of claim 2, wherein the storage device is an electronic memory.

6. The device of claim 2, wherein the storage device is a magnetic
5 memory.

7. The device of claim 2, wherein the storage device is a flash memory.

10 8. The device of claim 1, wherein said first earpiece includes a storage device slot for removably receiving the storage device therein.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein the second earpiece houses the power supply.

15 10. The device of claim 9, wherein wiring is provided for interconnecting the power supply, speakers, controller and accessing circuitry, and at least some of said wiring extends through an interior of said headband.

20 11. A portable audio playback device, comprising:

A headset assembly having a first earpiece and a second earpiece interconnected by a headband, wherein the headset assembly is configured to be worn on the head of a user such that the earpieces are
25 positioned over respective ears of the user;

at least one audio speaker positioned in at least one of the first earpiece and the second earpiece;

a storage device in the headset assembly for storing audio data;
memory reader in the headset assembly for accessing the audio
data in the storage device;

a controller in the headset assembly for sending the audio
5 signals based on the audio data to the at least one speaker;
a power supply in the headset assembly for powering the audio
playback device; and

and at least one audio control assembly provided on the headset
assembly and including a control button for use by the user in controlling the
10 playback of the audio data.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein the at least one audio control
assembly is located on one of said first earpiece and said second earpiece.

15 13. The device of claim 11, further including a plurality of audio
control assemblies each including an associated control button providing a
different control function for use by the user, wherein the audio control
assemblies are each located on one of said first earpiece and said second
earpiece.

20 14. The device of claim 13, wherein the audio control assemblies
provide at least power on/off, stop/start, fast forward, fast reverse, and
volume control functions.

25 15. The device of claim 11, wherein the at least one audio control
assembly is located on said headband.

16. The device of claim 11, further including a plurality of audio control assemblies each including an associated control button providing a different control function for use by the user, wherein the audio control assemblies are located on the headband.

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17. The device of claim 16, wherein the audio control assemblies provide at least power on/off, stop/start, fast forward, fast reverse, and volume control functions.

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18. The device of claim 11, wherein the storage device is a removable storage device.

19. The device of claim 18, wherein the storage device is a solid state digital storage media having digitally recorded audio information thereon.

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20. The device of claim 18, wherein the storage device is an optical storage device.

21. The device of claim 18, wherein the storage device is an
20 electronic memory.

22. The device of claim 18, wherein the storage device is a magnetic memory.

23. The device of claim 18, wherein the storage device is a flash
25 memory.

24. The device of claim 11, wherein said first earpiece includes a storage device slot for removably receiving the storage device therein.

25. The device of claim 24, wherein the second earpiece houses the
5 power supply.

26. The device of claim 11, wherein wiring is provided for interconnecting the power supply, speakers, controller and memory reader, and at least some of said wiring extends through an interior of said
10 headband.

27. A portable audio playback device, comprising:

A headset assembly having a first earpiece and a second earpiece interconnected by a headband, wherein the headset assembly is
15 configured to be worn on the head of a user such that the earpieces are positioned over respective ears of the user;

at least one audio speaker positioned in at least one of the first earpiece and the second earpiece;

a storage device in the headset assembly for storing audio data;
20 memory accessing circuitry in the headset assembly for reading and writing audio data in the storage device;

a microphone connected to the headset assembly for receiving user voice input;

a controller in the headset assembly for sending the audio
25 signals based on the audio data stored on the storage device to the at least one speaker, and for controlling writing of audio data based on the voice input to the storage device; and

a power supply in the head set assembly for powering the audio playback device.

28. The device of claim 27, wherein the storage device is a removable
5 storage device.

29. A portable audio playback system, comprising:

A headset assembly having a first earpiece and a second
earpiece interconnected by a headband, wherein the headset assembly is
10 configured to be worn on the head of a user such that the earpieces are
positioned over respective ears of the user, said headset further including at
least one audio speaker positioned in at least one of the first earpiece and the
second earpiece, and an audio signal receiver.

a playback unit remote from said headset unit including a
15 storage device for storing audio data, memory accessing circuitry for
accessing the audio data in the storage device, and a transmitter for
transmitting wireless audio signals to the headset based on the audio data;

wherein the audio signals received by the headset assembly are
sent to the at least one speaker so that they are heard by the user.

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30. The device of claim 29, wherein the headset assembly further
includes a microphone and a transmitter for transmitting wireless audio
signals based on user voice input provided to the microphone, and said
playback unit further includes a receiver for receiving the transmitted audio
25 signals and recorder for recording audio data in the storage device based on
the received audio signals.